

H.R. 1976. An act making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1976. An act making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mrs. KASSEBAUM, from the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 143. A bill to consolidate Federal employment training programs and create a new process and structure for funding the programs, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 104-118).

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 402. A bill to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 104-119).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mrs. KASSEBAUM, from the Committee on Labor and Human Resources:

Mary S. Furlong, of California, to be Member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science for a term expiring July 19, 1999, vice Daniel W. Casey, term expired.

Lynne C. Waihee, of Hawaii, to be a member of the National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board for a term of three years. (New Position)

Richard J. Stern, of Illinois, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2000, vice Catherine Yi-yu Cho Woo, term expired.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed, subject to the nominees' commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SIMON (for himself and Mr. JEFFORDS):

S. 1065. A bill to provide procedures for the contribution of volunteer United States military personnel to international peace operations; to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for participation of the

Armed Forces in peacekeeping activities, humanitarian activities, and refugee assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BRADLEY (for himself and Mr. NICKLES):

S. 1066. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to phase out the tax subsidies for alcohol fuels involving alcohol produced from feed stocks eligible to receive Federal agricultural subsidies; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 1067. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an excise tax exemption for transportation on certain ferries; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. SIMON):

S. 1068. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to permanently prohibit the possession of firearms by persons who have been convicted of a violent felony, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SIMON (for himself and Mr. JEFFORDS):

S. 1065. A bill to provide procedures for the contribution of volunteer U.S. military personnel to international peace operations; to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for participation of the Armed Force in peacekeeping activities, humanitarian activities, and refugee assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE OPERATIONS SUPPORT ACT OF 1995

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, Senator JEFFORDS and I are introducing today a bill entitled "The International Peace Operations Support Act of 1995." The bill would enhance the U.S. military's ability to contribute to international peace operations, and is similar to legislation we introduced in the last Congress.

The Simon-Jeffords bill requires the President to report to Congress on a plan to earmark within the Armed Forces a contingency force that could be used for peace and humanitarian operations, and could be deployed on 24-hour notice. The force would include up to 3,000 active-duty personnel from any of the services, who would volunteer to serve in international peace operations. The soldiers would receive extra compensation for their participation, and would get special training for such operations.

Additionally, the bill augments the mission statements of the Army, Navy, and Air Force by affirming that their responsibilities include participation in "international peacekeeping operations, humanitarian activities, and refugee assistance activities, when determined by the President to be in the national interest."

Senator JEFFORDS and I designed this legislation to help the U.S. military meet some of the emerging threats in the post-cold-war era: ethnic conflicts and civil wars that cause regional in-

stability, humanitarian disasters, and aggressors that threaten our interests overseas. Just as the military was used to confront the threat of the cold war, it will be called upon to address the threats of today and tomorrow. This has been evident in recent years in Bangladesh, Somalia, Macedonia, Rwanda, and Haiti, where the United States military has been asked to perform missions beyond the scope of traditional war-fighting, generally called peace operations.

Some reject categorically these kinds of roles for our military. I believe that is a mistake, and a denial of reality. That point of view implies that our military planners should prepare only for the big ones like World War II on the gulf war. That notion is not realistic, and would not serve our national security interests. Regional conflicts and instability are inevitable, and humanitarian disasters are inescapable. Peace operations will be needed, and the U.S. military—the most capable in the world—will be called upon to respond, so long as our Nation rejects isolationism.

Simon-Jeffords bill would help us respond to emergencies and crises by consolidating up to 3,000 soldiers with both the will and the training to undertake peace operations, who could react on short, perhaps 24-hour, notice. Let me give an example of why this is important:

In May 1994, when the situation in Rwanda was going from worse to horrific, Senator JEFFORDS and I called the Canadian general in charge of the small U.N. force there. General Daullaire made it clear that the quick infusion of 5,000-8,000 troops could stabilize the situation. Unfortunately, the United Nations did not have the troops, nor were nations willing to provide them, and we subsequently witnessed the deaths of hundreds of thousands. Rapid deployment of a contingency force as envisioned in this bill, in conjunction with similar forces in other countries, may have been able to help General Daullaire prevent some of the tragedy in Rwanda.

The concept of rapid reaction capability is neither new nor is it revolutionary. The first U.N. Secretary General, Trygve Lie, raised the idea in 1948, and there is a growing interest among the international community in enhanced military responsiveness. In fact, the United States is far behind our allies on new thinking in these areas. Canada is studying proposals to have nations designate contingency forces for peace operations, which would be coordinated by a central headquarters in some location. Our bill would fit into that plan very well. Denmark and the Netherlands are also formulating plans on quick reaction forces.

The U.S. military realizes that we will have to deal with regional crises, and I give credit to the services for incorporating peace and humanitarian